

From the "Centralized Abney Archives"

"The Abney Family Researcher"

Newsletter

August, 2000 Volume IV, Issue I

Dedicated to discovery, correction, and communication of ABNEY & related family information since November, 1996

"The John Robert Hensell Issue"

*Centralized Abney Archives
founded in 1993 by Raymond "Robert" Abney Jr.*

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The Centralized Abney Archives Web Site
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Gina Lyn Abney, Web Master

~ John Robert Hensell ~

27 July 1910 ~ 29 June 2000

~ may he rest in peace ~

A Message from R.R. Abney Jr., editor

Greetings dear cousins and friends of the Abney's!

It is with a heavy heart that I bring you this special issue of *the Abney Family Researcher* newsletter.

We, the ABNEY family researchers, have a huge void in our midst; A void that once filled by a cousin we've known and loved for many decades, a cousin devoted to the genealogy of the ABNEY family for most of his life. That cousin is John Robert HENSELL who passed away in June this year. This entire issue is dedicated to Cousin John.

It has been some fifteen months since the abeyance of the regular publication of our newsletter. During that time, I have asked too many "what-if's" and now realize that my sorrow over the loss of one of my most treasured possessions, my American ABNEY database, will not bring it back - work will.

With this issue, I am dedicating myself to resume the work which I love so dearly, which Cousin John HENSELL loved so dearly, the study of the Noble ABNEY Family. Beginning in January, 2001, I plan to resume issuing the *AFR* newsletter. Hopefully by January, I will have a large enough database to make intelligible newsletters. The only changes will be that the newsletter will be quarterly instead of bi-monthly, and it will be electronically delivered only. Anyone desiring to copy and distribute the newsletter to genealogists, family members, libraries, archives, genealogical and patriotic organizations and the like, are encouraged to do so.

I'm glad to be back! Thanks to all for your kindness.

Your cousin,

R.R. Abney Jr.

Fortiter et Honestè

In Memory of

John Robert Hensell

Abney Family Genealogist, Abney Author

It is a great irony that people who work with death and the deceased (genealogists) on a daily basis still have difficulty dealing with the death of a loved one. Perhaps the reason is that when we discover a deceased kinsman, we learn to love them through the records they left behind. But it is far more difficult to learn to love someone on a more personal level, then lose them. As genealogists, we have a much wider circle of family and friends, and as a bonus, we have much more love to give and be given in return. The price we pay is that we have much more love to lose.

Such is the case with a man I have been proud to call a kinsman, Cousin John Robert HENSELL late of Houston, Texas.

Cousin John was born in Granbury, Texas on 27 Jul 1910. At an early age, he became interested in his family history. That interest neither waned nor ceased.

He had the opportunity to work with the early ABNEY researchers, including Agatha ABNEY WOODSON (1859-1952), possibly John "Pym" YEATMAN (author of: "*The Albinis of Derbyshire*" published by Moody Bros., Birmingham, England *1907), E.E. Macy, and others less known to we later ABNEY researchers. Cousin John had the benefit of their knowledge, and the gift of their experience. However, he also inherited from them, the errors of their theories.

These errors, and a desire to correctly delineate the ABNEY family, are what compelled Cousin John to work for more than 60 years on our family history.

When Cousin John began his genealogical studies, there was little information available to him. There were no census indices, much less computers and the internet. Many books weren't even indexed. Census records had to be read in their entirety in order to locate a single individual. Copy machines were unavailable. Documents and census records had to be transcribed manually. Cousin John spent countless hours doing just that, in dusty old courthouses, churches, libraries, archives, and cemeteries.

As the industrial age produced more efficient ways of documenting family history, Cousin John became interested in publishing a book on the ABNEY family. In spite of it's errors, the publishing of a family history was a great idea.

Although perhaps not its main goal, its main accomplishment was to bring together many branches of the ABNEY family researchers in order to discover the truth and fallacy of the then accepted history of our family. That opus was self-published in 1972 and titled simply, "ABNEY". It was the first major publication based primarily on the history of the ABNEY family in America (YEATMAN's work was not extensive on the ABNEY's in America. There was a MAYS work containing much ABNEY information, published [I believe] in the 1920's which is replete with errors).

Although genealogy is an exact science, it is an inexact hobby. Since all ABNEY branches are from Virginia roots, all ABNEY branches will have difficulty connecting to those roots. As YEATMAN so frankly stated: "*It may be objected that the Notices presently given are only fragmentary. The wonder is that so many have been discovered. Unfortunately, in the early settlements of the different counties of Virginia, the records were kept very imperfectly, very different from those of New York, which are so excellent that a pedigree can readily be compiled from them; and worse than this, terrible losses have occurred owing to frequent warfare between the Indians and in Bacon's rebellion, and again in the Revolution of 1775-83, and in the last American war [1861-1865], when much of what was left was taken away or destroyed by the Northern troops. They overran Lower Virginia for four or five years, and many Courthouses and their records were burnt. Even now occasionally an old record turns up in the North, and is either returned or repurchased, for it is treated as a war-trophy. Unfortunately, the Records of Nansemond, King William, and Hanover Counties, and part of those of Henrico County and South Carolina are missing, so that upon the whole the Abney family may be congratulated upon the discovery of so many of their early records.*" (from "*The Albini's of Derbyshire*" *1907)

Cousin John recognized the imperfections of the ABNEY family history as it was believed in those days. It is unlikely that Cousin John believed that his 1972 manuscript was perfect in any way. What is likely, however, is that he knew a "beginning" must start somewhere, sometime, by someone. He was that someone, and he figured the time was right. Having some 35 years of genealogical experience with the ABNEY records, Cousin John, no doubt, felt very comfortable publishing that 1972 manuscript, despite its faults. To be certain, Cousin John had become *the* ABNEY expert, not on individual branches, but on the ABNEY family in general.

The response to Cousin John's first manuscript was, no doubt, overwhelming. After all his years of studies, he was to receive another lesson: Each genealogist is an expert on their on lineage in their own right, and nobody can be an expert on the whole, but in general only. As I've quoted many times before, the Acadian Genealogist Bona Arsenault wrote, "*a genealogy has never been published that doesn't contain errors and omissions, including my own*". Cousin John had become,

in effect, a centralized ABNEY archive (hence the name of the organization I created many decades after Cousin John began his studies).

Cousin John had a new goal: To correct his manuscript due to the great influx of new information received from his fellow researchers.

Two years later, Cousin John published a major revision of his 1972 work, so much so, that the 1972 work has been forgotten by many genealogists, and is completely unknown to the latest group of ABNEY genealogists. The 1974 manuscript was also self-published and also entitled "*ABNEY*".

Although that 1974 manuscript was a vast improvement over the 1972 publication, it wasn't enough to satisfy Cousin John. He endeavored to write another manuscript more directly concerning the American branches. It would take 14 years before he was ready to publish again. But before then, others would follow Cousin John's lead.

Cousin Ted B. BERNARD, Ph.D. privately-published "*Bernard Grandparents*" in 1976, a work which more directly concerns the ABNEY ancestors than the BERNARD family. Much of BERNARD's work was taken from Cousin John's work. Indeed, BERNARD even credits Cousin John R. HENSELL as a major contributor.

Cousin Charlotte Ann ABNEY METZGER wrote "*In Search of Kate*", published by Genealogical R. & P., St. Louis, Mo., in 1978 which more specifically deals with her branch of the ABNEY family.

Finally, in 1988, Cousin John published his manuscript "*ABNEY Supplement*". The 1988 work rendered the earlier works completely obsolete in their rendition of the American ABNEY family. He boldly discounted older theories of the earlier researchers, and put forth his own ideas as to the earlier ABNEY generations. Now, Cousin John had the book he wanted, one which could be expanded. His enumeration of the ABNEY family members is still utilized by many genealogists today to identify a certain person of discussion. Moreover, in Cousin John's updates, he continued to reference those numbers in order to maintain continuity.

Other works followed, including three manuscripts by Don ABNEY, two by Elise BRIDGES, and one John Bentley MAYS.

But Cousin John was not finished, yet. He surely realized that a perfect genealogy would be impossible. However, the impossibility of obtaining perfection should not dissuade one from striving for perfection. Cousin John knew this, consequently he set about publishing updates.

I, myself, have been inspired to write an ABNEY family history. However, realizing the multitude of inconsistencies and erroneous beliefs in our current knowledge of the ABNEY genealogy, I have many times delayed that publishing. Perhaps one day.

In May, 2000, Cousin John lost his wife of 65 years, Birdie, who had turned 90 in February. His only salvation was genealogy. But even genealogy, "his second love", could not replace the emptiness in his heart. On Thursday, 29 Jun 2000, 6 weeks after Birdie's demise, Cousin John passed away.

So when did Cousin John cease his work on the ABNEY family? The very moment he passed away. In truth, he was working on a major revision, some 16 pages, of the George ABNEY branch. This revision was due to the fact that recent discoveries have shown Cousin John's ancestry, as printed in his books, to be inaccurate. Imagine that - after so many decades of unselfishly helping others to discover their lineage, his own lineage came into question.

The last communiqué I have from Cousin John shows that he had accepted the fact that "his" Nathaniel ABNEY was definitely not an alleged posthumous son of Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY. I have wrestled in my mind whether or not to print this personal letter. However, I feel it is important for everyone to know that Cousin John's ancestry, as printed in his manuscripts, was incorrect; and furthermore, that he knew it. I feel that after sixty-plus years of genealogical research, Cousin John would not want his legacy to go down in an erroneous manner. Although from reading the letter, one will notice that Cousin John was tired and his thoughts fading, one can also realize that he still had that fervor which compelled him to work on the ABNEY family history for so many decades. Still, and again in the interest of correctly delineating Cousin John's ancestry, I will print excerpts from Cousin John's letter. Please note that my comments are in [brackets]. I would also like to point out that in the genealogy contained in his letter, Cousin John was still using his reference numbers from his 1988 manuscript (i.e. "1-01a GEORGE ABNEY"):

11811 S. Willowdale Circle
Houston, Texas 77071
Oct. 29, 1999

Dear Cousin,

I have finished working the family of GEORGE ABNEY & Unity ~ & as soon as I get it typed I will have some copies made & send you one. It will contain 16 pages. However I am sure you will be glad to know that I have finally found our Nathaniel, proved by Census, Wills & etc. As I know you will be delighted with it I am sending you this...

[here he goes into his beliefs of his lineage which many new genealogists may find confusing. I will show his lineage, as we believe it to be, later on in this article] Cousin John continued...

...The only thing I hate is that it will cause me to have to change my Supplemental Line to Mr. Nathaniel from Dr. Nathaniel . Bible Records of Raymond Abney proves the fact that there was no posthumous son of Dr. Nathaniel. The reason for this error by the early researchers was due to the fact that there were four Nathaniel's living at that time that they did not know of at that time and they had Nathaniel' born about the same time. We can definitely say that this is now the correct line. Let me hear from you soon. John & Joseph Abney [sons of Nathaniel ABNEY who m. Sarah CANADA] seem to have been in the saw mill business together at Indian Mound.

Your Cousin

John Hensell

How inspiring this should be to all genealogists. Having only missed arriving at the age of 90 by one month, Cousin John continued plucking away at that old manual typewriter, trying desperately, not only to correctly delineate his ancestry, but to advise others as well.

His mention of me [as Raymond Abney, I usually go by my middle name, Robert] is, to me, an honor. Cousin John was working on the ABNEY family before my father was born. Still, I had the honor and privilege of assisting him with his own ancestry. The Bible record he mentions here is that of Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY's son, of the same name. Moreover, census records show Nathaniel ABNEY (Cousin John's ancestor) to have been born ca. 1790, some 3 years after Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY's death.

He mentions the earlier researchers and gives his conclusion as to their reasoning for incorrectly delineating his line; And he is correct. The Nathaniel ABNEY's can be very confusing. Interested persons should read my article "Oh, Nathaniel" in Vol.II Iss.VI of *the Abney Family Researcher* newsletter (Sept. 1998).

I find it charming that Cousin John was still concerned about his membership in the *Sons of the American Revolution*, and ensuring they had his line correct. I can write with some degree of certainty that Cousin John did correct his line with the SAR, as it was foremost on his mind.

I have not received a copy of the 16-page George ABNEY composition that Cousin John was working on. If anyone has a copy thereof, please send it to me. It would be a treasure to have.

Herewith, find Cousin John's ancestry (as we presently believe it to be):

-
1. Dannett ABNEY Sr. <bapt.26 Feb 1659; will prob.05 Mar 1733> m. Mary (LEE?)¹ <d.aft.21 Jul 1739>
 2. George ABNEY² <will prob.16 Oct 1766> m. Unity n.n.³
 3. Michael ABNEY⁴ <d.aft.1790 (if he is the Michael on the 1790 census)> m. Ann TURNER⁵
 4. Pvt. Nathaniel ABNEY⁵ <per Cousin John b.est.1742; d.bef.1810> m. (Mary "Polly" n.n. ?)⁶ <cen.1810 SC>
 5. Nathaniel ABNEY Jr.⁷ <per Cousin John b.est.1767> m. n.n.
 6. Nathaniel ABNEY [III]⁷ <b.ca.1790; d.1868> m. (as her second husband?) Sarah CANADA⁸
 7. Joseph ABNEY <ca.1807-ca.1851> m. Jane "Jincy" WALKER <1806-1870>
 8. Martha Margaret ABNEY <1844-1917> m. (as his second wife) Rev. James HINER, CSA <1823-1883>
 9. Claudie Donzella HINER <1879-1962> m. Robert Ferrell HENSELL <1875-1966>
 10. John Robert HENSELL <27 Jul 1910-29 Jun 2000> (the subject of this memorial)

Footnotes:

1. Dannett ABNEY Sr.'s wife was definitely named Mary. However, her surname, as LEE, has never been proved. Cousin John HENSELL and many earlier researchers believed she was a LEE. British Genealogist, Michael YELLAND believed her to be a daughter of Joseph LEE, son of Rev. Joseph LEE & Anne n.n. British Genealogist and family researcher John "Pym" YEATMAN also believed her to be a LEE. I believe her to be a LEE, but shown by circumstantial evidence only. Hence I prefer to question mark her alleged surname.

2. George's parentage has been discussed many times. What it comes to is this: Dannett ABNEY was the only ABNEY to migrate to the Virginia colony. Hence, he is the only ABNEY who can be George's father. Moreover, after the death of Dannett ABNEY Sr., his widow Mary lived with (or near) George ABNEY, first in Hanover Co., Va. (Deed of Hanover Co., Va. dated 04 Nov 1735: Mary Abney of St. Paul's Par., Hanover Co., to Edwin Hickman of St. Geo. Par., Spts. Co., 209½ a., half being part of a tract of land granted Thomas Hill and Dannitt Abney, by pat., Sept. 28, 1728. /s/ Mary (her X mark) Abney /w/ Z. Lewis, Edwd. Herndon, Junr., Wm. Waller, Robt. Turner); later in Henrico Co., Va. (Vestry of Henrico Co., Va. dated 21 Jul 1739 George Abney appointed Precessioner. He lists property adjoining "the Widow Abney") where she probably died. I have deeds to show that George ABNEY lived (or held land in) Hanover Co., Va. from ca.1728 to ca.1735; in Henrico Co., Va. from ca.1735 to ca.1745; in Lunenburg Co., Va. from ca.1746 to 1754; and in Halifax Co., Va. from 1754 until his death. His closeness to Mary (as his mother) as well as Dannett Jr. (as his brother - who lived in Hanover Co., Va. from ca.1733 until he died) and Abraham (as his brother - who lived in Henrico Co., Va. from ca.1732 to ca.1744; in Hanover Co., Va. from ca.1745 to ca.1748; in Lunenburg Co., Va. from ca.1748 to 1754; and in Halifax Co., Va. from 1754 until after George ABNEY died) and Martha ABNEY SPRAGGINS (as his sister - who, with her husband, William SPRAGGINS Sr. lived in Henrico Co., Va. until ca.1748; in Lunenburg Co., Va. from ca.1749 to 1754; and in Halifax Co., Va. thereafter) cannot be denied. Also note the closeness of George, Dr. Abraham, and Martha in that their lands which lay in Lunenburg Co., Va. came to be in Halifax Co., Va. after the boundary line change in 1754. Additionally, George ABNEY is the only son of the first generation to name a son Dannett. (*Hensell continued on page 6*) (*Hensell continued from page 5*)

Unity (surname unknown) is proved to be George ABNEY's wife in many deeds in which she either relinquished her dower right, or was co-grantee or co-grantor.

3. Michael ABNEY is proved to be a son of George by the will of the latter (Will written in Halifax Co., Va. on 13 Oct 1765 - George Abney of Halifax County: *To my son Dennat Abney 240 a. adj. In Fuquas land in Sherlot Co. To my well beloved wife*

the plantation whereon I now dwell with the stock & furniture & emplants thereon during her life it being part of 400 a. & is to contain 200 a. To my well beloved son Samuel Abney 200 a. being part of 400 adj. Capt. Spragons land & Jas Norell, Junr.s land on the Great Creek. To my well beloved son William Abney 200 a. adj. Wm Glass & Chas. Harroway. I give the plantation & stock with moveables at his mothers decease unto my well beloved son Michael Abney (Cum onere). Exr: Sons Samuel Abney & William Abney my soal executors. /s/ George (+) Abney. Nathl Barksdale, Thos. Spragen, James Norrell, Senr., William Hill).

Michael ABNEY's wife (Ann TURNER), and his eldest son (Nathaniel ABNEY), are proved by a "chain of title" for land she inherited from her father (Deed of Newberry Co., Ninety-Six Dist., S.C. dated 02 & 03 Feb 1792: *Nath^l Abney to Thos Spearman, both of Newberry Co., for £100 sterling, 100 acres. Chain of title: Enoch Anderson (grant of 03 Dec 1751) sold to W^m Turner who willed to daughters, Mary & Ann (250 a. on Little R. & other part of sd. tract to Ann, wife of Michael Abney, and now sd. Nathaniel Abney, the eldest son of Ann Abney convey 100 acres, the part willed to his mother to the sd. Thos Spearman on Saludy River. . /s/ Nathaniel (his X mark) Abney /w/ Jos Towles, Edw Thweatt, Jn Atkinson).*

On the 1810 Census of South Carolina, one Polley ABNEY (almost definitely an ABNEY widow) appears. Many of the wives of the ABNEY's of that period are "fairly" well documented (at least by their given name). However, no wife is known for Pvt. Nathaniel. It is possible (not proved) that this Polley ("Polly" is a nickname for Mary) was Pvt. Nathaniel ABNEY's widow.

On the 1810 Census of South Carolina two Nathaniel ABNEY's appear in Union County. One is certainly the son of Pvt. Nathaniel ABNEY. It is well documented that Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY left Union County, SC ca.1786 and migrated to Orangeburg District where he appears in the records of Winton County. His will was also filed there (now Barnwell County) in 1787. Dr. Nathaniel's son, Paul Collins ABNEY appears to have departed Union County ca.1789 or a little earlier, to join his mother in Edgefield Co. Dr. Nathaniel's widow, Lucy and her son, Paul Collins ABNEY were living in Edgefield Co. in 1793 when they gave what appears to have been the last of Dr. Nathaniel's Union County estate to the former's son-in-law, Absalom POSEY for 5 shillings. Dr. Nathaniel's son, Nathaniel ABNEY (born 1786) was in Edgefield County, SC in 1810. This son of Dr. Nathaniel ABNEY was 4 years younger than Cousin John HENSELL's Nathaniel ABNEY (b.ca.1790). Therefore, it is logical that the two Nathaniel ABNEY's in Union County, South Carolina in 1810 were father & son, the elder being a son of Pvt. Nathaniel, the younger being the Private's grandson. For this reason, it is believed that the Nathaniel ABNEY [III] who m. Sarah CANADA, formerly believed to be a posthumous son of Dr. Nathaniel, was the Nathaniel ABNEY living in Union Co., SC in 1810. Furthermore, and more importantly for this record, this Nathaniel [III] migrated to Tennessee and sold land in Union

County, SC. Having been proved to be one of the Nathaniel's in Union County in 1810, it is only logical that he was a son of the elder Nathaniel in Union County in 1810. Although only circumstantial, this evidence is very strong.

6. From Nathaniel ABNEY [III] m. Sarah CANADA to Cousin John HENSELL is well-documented.

It is some small comfort to me that Cousin John HENSELL was laid to rest believing that he had at long last learned his proper place in the ABNEY ancestry, due in part to my work. It is nice to have contributed to the work of a man whom we can all appreciate. We may not have always been in agreement, but we were always working toward the same goal: the correct delineation of the ABNEY family and its branches.

When I began the *Centralized Abney Archives* (in 1993), I immediately sought the non-financial support of some of the senior genealogists of the ABNEY family. I was very pleased (and proud) when Cousin John gave me that support. In addition to sending me a multitude of material, he notified many of his correspondents that he was doing so. This support undoubtedly assisted, in no small way, the success of the *Centralized Abney Archives*.

When I began publishing a newsletter, *the Abney Family Researcher*, in 1996, Cousin John was elated. I could expect a letter from him after every issue. He was always ready to give advice, support, documentation, and propose theories. Cousin John was a blessing to me and my work; as well as to the entire ABNEY family.

It is always an easy thing to speak well of the deceased. However, following a meeting in his home in 1997, I decided that this man must not be laid to rest until first knowing how much he is appreciated. I recall something he said to me at that visit: "*I don't want to be forgotten, Raymond. Don't let them forget me*". Indeed, Cousin John wanted to live on in the minds and hearts of ABNEY genealogists forever. Being a published author, he will. However, I shall endeavor to be mindful of Cousin John's contribution to our family history; and urge the same for all ABNEY family genealogists.

For this reason, I am also happy that I decided to pay a tribute to Cousin John HENSELL prior to his death. In the final issue (VI) of Volume I, September 1997 (the inaugural year) of *the Abney Family Researcher*, I wrote (in part):

A Tribute to Cousin John HENSELL

Let us, the ABNEY Researchers extend a special note of thanks to Cousin John Robert HENSELL for the work he has done on the ABNEY Family. Born 27 Jul

1910 in Granbury, Texas, son of Robert HENSELL and Claudie HINER, he currently resides in Houston, Texas. His grandmother was Martha Margaret ABNEY... Cousin John has been a genealogist for some 60 years and has worked with the likes of Agatha ABNEY WOODSON & Ted BERNARD. Cousin John has published 3 manuscripts on the ABNEY Family, which were huge undertakings. In addition to the enormous amounts of effort and money required to publish such works, one must go "out on a limb" to do so. One must be prepared to answer the multitude of questions that will inevitably arise; Be humble enough to change that which is proven incorrect; Be austere enough to maintain that which is correct; And be discerning enough to know the difference. Cousin John has exhibited these admirable traits in his work...Cousin John's 2nd manuscript was a major revision of the 1st; and the 3rd a Supplement to the 2nd. The 2nd & 3rd volumes continue to be foundations for many of our family histories, but are supplemented by updates of new and corrected information. He is preparing his "Final Summary" of the ABNEY Manuscripts, which by his declaration will be his final work on the subject; but as long as he has breath, I think Cousin John will have a word to say about the ABNEY Family. Cousin John's work reminds us of that genealogical rule: "Don't take anything at 'face value'". Just when you think you have it all figured out, another piece of evidence emerges causing major changes. Published genealogies should be used as "clues" to discover primary evidence. For this reason, Cousin John's works have been blessings to us all. Therefore, it is no small debt of gratitude that we owe to the earlier researchers, including Cousin John HENSELL. Cousin John, thank you for your many years of service to the ABNEY Family. We hope you continue to enjoy the new information we discover on the ABNEY Family; And I personally hope you continue to enjoy *the Abney Family Researcher* for many years to come. Thank you for your support of this project.

R.R. Abney Jr.

On behalf of the ABNEY Researchers

Indeed it is a difficult accomplishment to publish a book the scope of Cousin John's...and he did it three times. I, myself have endeavored to publish a history on the ABNEY family, however, I have changed the title and format countless times, and with the *CAA* and the *AFR*, so many new discoveries have been made that everything in print is obsolete. I just couldn't bring myself to do it. Had I learned from Cousin John, and went out on a limb and published my work, the loss of my database would not have been so devastating.

Something good must come out of everything. And from Cousin John's passing, I am vowing to get back to work on the family history. Thanks to Cousin John, I will build a new database and hopefully even get a book in print. I have made plans with Cousin Gina ABNEY to put a gedcom on the internet as soon as I can get the database together. This will help to prevent losing the database again. Be patient, cousins, this will take a few years considering the enormous amount of information we have amassed.

But I should be able to begin issuing regular newsletters by January, 2001.

I wish to extend my condolences to the family of Cousin John and his wife, Birdie. Surely the loss of two parents within two months must be difficult for any person to bear.

I would like to extend my thanks to Cousin Abney BREWER for the fine obituary she wrote on Cousin John, which obituary appears (at this writing) on the opening screen of the Centralized Abney Archives. Cousin Abney was a dear friend of Cousin John. I originally sought to use and enhance her work for this newsletter. However, as I began writing, memories arose of my work, correspondence, and meeting with Cousin John, and this memorial took a different direction, to wit, it came from the heart as well as the head. For this I am happy.

However, I would like to reiterate part of the obituary in which Cousin Abney wrote:

Cards may be sent directly to Mr. Hensell's daughter, Martha Ford at 11811 S. Willowdale Circle, Houston, TX 77071 or by e-mail in care of Abney Brewer . Donations in memory of John Hensell may be made to the Friends of The Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, Houston Public Library, 5300 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004 or the charity of your choice.

In Closing... Thank you, Cousin John, for your tireless effort towards the ABNEY family history. I should be so lucky as to have your drive and awareness at your age. You are already sorely missed...and you will not be forgotten!

R. Robert Abney Jr.

Fortiter et Honeste

Unresolved Problems presented in Previous Issues of *the Abney
Family Researcher*

Volume I

- 3. Leonard ABNEY of TN - RR
- 9. James T. ABNEY - NR
- 10. Mary Agnes ABNEY - RR
- 17. Charles ABNEY (gs/o Dannett ABNEY) - RR/T

Volume II

- 23. Mary Ann HOLMES GAUSDEN - RR
- 34. Parentage of Butler ABNEY - NR
- 37. Issue of W^m ABNEY & Delilah RICHARDSON - RR
- 38. Husband of Melicent WILLS (ABNEY) - NR
- 39. Parentage of Benjamin "Ben" ABNEY - NR
- 40. Parentage of John B. ABNEY - NR
- 44. Cemetery of Kentucky ABNEY's - NR
- 45. Bathshua (widow of ABNEY & LEE) - NR
- 46. John ABNEY Jr. of South Carolina (1776-1823) - RR
- 47. OBNEY of Ohio, Pennsylvania, W. Va., & Virginia - NR
- 48. William Omer ABNEY (b.1878 Georgia) - NR
- 49. Pvt. William ABNEY's wives - RR
- 50. Ward Wilson ABNEY of Virmigy, Minnesota - NR

51. Robert ABNEY who m. Mary RODMAN - NR

53. John Joseph ABNEY of Louisiana - NR

Volume III

55. Parentage of Mary L. ABNEY -NR

56. Issue of Clem ABNEY - NR

57. Another Abner ABNEY - NR

58. Parentage of Dr. James "Henry" ABNER - NR

59. Parentage of David ABNEY of SC - NR

60. Thomas ABNEY of Surrey, England - NR

Codes:

NR = No Response

R* = Resolved (see this issue)

R = Resolved (see next issue)**

RR = Responses Received

T = Theory Formulated

T* = Theory Formulated (see this issue)

T = Theory Formulated (see next issue)**